

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 07725 271638Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01
SAB-02 /049 W
-----056255 271645Z /47

O R 271600Z OCT 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4286
INFO USCINCSO
PANCANAL

UNCLAS PANAMA 7725

DEPT FOR ARA/PAF AND PAN

USCINCSO FOR J-2 AND PAO

PANCANAL FOR IO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PN
SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTIONS

FOLG SENT ACTION IMMEDIATE USINFO WASHDC INFO SECSTATE WASHDC
271558Z OCT 77 FROM USIS/PANAMA RPTD YOUR ACTION/INFO

QUOTE
UNCLAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

MEDIA REACTION

1. PANAMA CITY.--ALL PAPERS OCT. 27 CARRY ON FRONT PAGE PRES.
CARTER LETTER TO TORRIJOS. PRO-GOP MATUTINO HEADS LETTER,
"CARTER CONGRATULATES TORRIJOS AND ANTICIPATES RATIFICATION OF
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 07725 271638Z

TREATIES BY US SENATE." SEMI-INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA GIVES
LETTER BANNER HEAD, "CARTER TELLS OMAR TORRIJOS HERRERA IN
CONGRATULATIONS MESSAGE, 'I ANTICIPATE RATIFICATION BY SENATE."

2. ONLY OTHER MAJOR TREATY-RELATED STORY IS ANNOUNCEMENT THAT
OFFICIAL RESULTS OF PLEBISCITE WILL BE ANNOUNCED TOMORROW,
WITH ALMOST 200 PROMINENT PANAMANIANs NAMED AS SPECIAL "HONORARY

WITNESSES" TO CONFIRM VOTE COUNT.

3. PRO-GOP CRITICA FRONT-PAGES EFE ITEM, "OMAR SATISFIED WITH PLEBISCITE," WHICH QUOTES TORRIJOS AS SAYING HE IS CONTENT WITH VOTE, AND THAT NEGATIVE VOTE WAS BECAUSE "THERE ARE PANAMANIAN WHO DO NOT WANT US PRESENCE FOR 23 MORE YEARS." ARTICLE ALSO QUOTES TORRIJOS AS SAYING, "TO THIS PEOPLE, LIVING UNDER PROTECTIVE UMBRELLA OF PENTAGON IS NOT A VERY CALMING DREAM. TENS OF TIMES WE HAVE BEEN INTERVENED, AND NOT EXACTLY WITH THE INTENTIONS OF THE RED CROSS."

4. ESTRELLA CARRIES AP NEW YORK ITEM, "NEW YORK TIMES BELIEVES TREATIES SHOULD BE APPROVED, AND SOON." ANOTHER FRONT PAGE ARTICLE, "PANAMANIAN IN BROOKLYN PROMOTE CAMPAIGN FOR TREATY RATIFICATION; EDIT BOOK WHICH EXPLAINS OUR CAUSE." IS DATED WASHINGTON BUT WITHOUT ATTRIBUTION, AND CONCERNS GROUP KNOWN AS PANAMANIAN-AMERICANS IN ACTION.

5. OCT. 26 AFTERNOONER LA REPUBLICA EDIT LOOKS BEYOND PLEBISCITE TO SENATE RATIFICATION: "PRESIDENT JAMES CARTER, UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS SITUATION WAS INTOLERABLE FOR PANAMANIAN AND THAT MOMENT HAD ARRIVED TO CORRECT IT, SIGNED TREATY WHOSE APPROVAL OR DISAPPROVAL NOW DEPENDS ON SENATE OF THAT NATION. IT IS THEIR TURN TO SHOW THE WORLD IF IT IS TRUE THAT JUSTICE IS DOCTRINE WHICH MADE THEIR NATION GREAT, OR IF ON CONTRARY, THEY WILL CONTINUE CLINGING TO IMPERIALIST SENTIMENT FOUNDED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 PANAMA 07725 271638Z

WHAT THEY CALLED EXPANISON BY MANIFEST DESTINY."

6. EDIT CONCLUDES, "ENTIRE WORLD NOW WATCHES US SENATE TO SEE WHAT THEY WILL DECIDE. PANAMANIAN, IN DEMOCRATIC FORM, WITH SENSE OF HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY, HAVE GIVE THEIR APPROVAL TO TREATY WHICH WAS NEGOTIATED FOR OVER 13 YEARS. NOW WE REPEAT: IT'S THEIR TURN*"

7. MATUTINO COLUMN MOYOLANDIA ALSO LOOKS AT RATIFICATION PROCESS, AND WORRIES ABOUT TREATY OPPONENTS FLOODING SENATORS WITH MAIL AGAINST TREATY: "DANGER OF THIS IS THAT SENATOR WHO IS UNDECIDED COULD WELL LET HIMSELF BE IMPRESSED BY AVALANCHE OF LETTERS WHICH ARE SENT TO HIM, ESPECIALLY IF THOSE WHO MAKE THEM UP TAKE CARE TO MAKE THEM APPEAR AS AUTHENTIC AS POSSIBLE."

8. HOWEVER, COLUMN CONTINUES, "WHAT REALLY FAVORS US IS PRESSURE AT HIGHEST LEVELS WHICH DIFFERENT LEADERS OF FRIENDLY NATIONS ARE EXERCISING, AND WHICH EVEN MORE STRONGLY ARE EXERCISING LEADERS OF THOSE NATIONS WHO MAKE MOST USE OF CANAL... NEVERTHELESS I WOULD NOT GET CARELESS AND I WOULD NOT UNDERESTIMATE TREATY OPPONENTS, AND IT WOULD NOT BE OUT OF LINE TO USE THEIR OWN METHODS AND FLOOD MEMBERS OF US SENATE WITH

LETTERS WHICH SOLICIT THEIR VOTE IN FAVOR OF TREATY."

9. COLUMN ALSO BELIEVES SENATE COULD "FIND OBJECTIONAL CLAUSES, AND TREATIES COULD BE APPROVED SUBJECT TO AMENDMENTS OF THOSE CLAUSES. THIS IS A REALITY WHICH THE PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW, AND IT WOULD BE DISHONEST TO HIDE IT. EQUALLY SENATE COULD ACCEPT LEADERSHIP OF PRES. CARTER AND APPROVE TREATIES AS THEY STAND. BUT...IF THEY OBJECT TO ANY OF THE CLAUSES, DEPENDING ON THEIR IMPORTANCE, IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO RENEGOTIATE THEM. BUT IF THEY WERE NOT OF SUBSTANTIVE IMPORTANCE, THE RESERVATIONS COULD BE RESOLVED WITH AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES."

10. COLUMN CONCLUDES, "WHAT IS CLEAR IS THAT STRUGGLE IS NOT OVER, THAT TREATY ENEMIES ARE NOT RESTING, AND THEREFORE ANY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 04 PANAMA 07725 271638Z

ACTION AT ANY LEVEL WHICH WOULD HELP TO GET APPROVAL OF US SENATE WOULD NOT BE TOO MUCH." ITEM
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition Event:
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TAGS: SOPN, PINT, PN
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